

COLONIAL DISTRICT

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COURIER

West Virginia

VOLUME XXXII - NUMBER 2

APRIL, 2010

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District Director's Message

Time flies when you are planning a pre-spring convention. It seems like I just wrote an article for the January Courier inviting you to our downscale meeting and wondered if it would work.

The results are in and it appears to have been a success. Seventy-three rosarians registered and even though we had seven late cancellations, we still had sixty-six members present. The judging seminar that was put together by Horticultural Judges' Chairman Donna Smoot was a success with seventeen judges being requalified.

The weather for the weekend was wonderful, the food prepared by Barbara Shaner and her family (Big Dipper Ice Cream Shop) was bounteous and wonderful, the hotel was very gracious and catered to our every need and gave us the run of the hotel, and our speakers presented excellent talks on a variety of subjects. I think we got an "A" for our efforts and I thank Charles Shaner, Lynda Grass, George Wilson, Janice Sellers, Katherine Craig, and Donna Smoot, along with all the speakers for making this a special weekend.

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2009 Spring Rose Shows

- * April 27-May 2 -- Spring National Show, Shreveport, LA - Contact: Mary Walker, 318-965-4153
marycookwalker@bellsouth.net.
- * May 15 — Virginia Peninsula Rose Society — Patrick Henry Mall, Newport News, VA. Contact: Dick Parsell, 757-850-2765, osagefarm@cox.net
- * May 29 -- Richmond Rose Society - Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens. Contact: Willie Mills, 804-641-0656
willie1091@comcast.net
- * June 5 — Maryland Rose Society, Friendly Farm Restaurant, 17434 Foreston Rd., Upperco, MD. Contact: David Walsh, 410-374-1070, shiloh@qis.net
- * June 6 — Charleston Rose Society, University of Charleston, Charleston, WV. Contact: Lynda Grass, 304-345-3634, lyndagrass@wvhdf.com.
- * June 12-13 — South Penn Area Rose Society, 1st Lutheran Church, Chambersburg, PA. Contact: Dale E. Martin, 717-369-3036, dmartin5222@comcast.net
- * June 5-6 — Arlington Rose Foundation, Merrifield Garden Center 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA. Contact: David Maxwell, 703-860-0071, davesroses@yahoo.com.
- * August 20-22 — Mini National Show & Conference, Milwaukee, WI. Contact: Diane Sommers, 262-781-7989, dsrosenut@wi.rr.com.

DRYING ROSES IN THE MICROWAVE

1. Select a fresh and DRY bloom 1/4 to 1/2 open. Cut stem about 1/2 inch long.
2. Use a microwave-safe container deep enough so that the rose can be completely covered in silica gel. (I usually use styrofoam cups.)
3. Pour a 1-inch base of silica gel into the container. Insert the stem, placing in an upright position; carefully sprinkle the silica gel between and over the petals. Make sure that each petal is thoroughly covered and not crushed. Continue until the rose is completely covered.
4. Fill a microwave-safe cup with one cup of water. Place the cup of water and the container with the rose side by side in the microwave.
5. Microwave on High 2 minutes, rotating the container with the rose every 30 seconds if the microwave does not rotate automatically. (If your microwave is an older model, it may require a few more seconds, up to 2 1/2 minutes.)
6. Remove the container with the rose and let set, undisturbed, in the silica gel for an additional 12 hrs.
7. When all the moisture is absorbed, carefully remove the rose from the silica gel. Tap gently to remove all particles. A small artist's brush is good to use.
8. Rose must dry completely, and this takes a long time. I prop them in small-necked bud vases and let set 2-3 weeks. It is dry when stem does not jiggle where it connects to the rose. Put Elmer's glue or glue from a hot glue gun around this area (where it connects) and let dry. Spray with clear acrylic spray (can be found at K-Mart or Wal-Mart with cans of spray paint).

NOTE: Roses do best if processed in separate containers one at a time. Rose leaves may also be dried using the same method and adjusting the time in the microwave.

Silica Gel can be re-used. When it has absorbed the maximum amount of moisture, the blue crystals turn pink. When this happens, spread the mixture in a shallow pan and heat in a 275 degree oven for 30-45 minutes.

Store dried roses in metal tins or cardboard boxes with tissue paper.

If some petals fall off, they may be reattached by using a hot glue gun

ENJOY!

... *Diana Fleek*



JUDGES' CORNER

The Colonial District had a judge's seminar in Staunton, Virginia, on March 20th at the Quality Inn. We had nineteen judges recertify and fifteen of those were from the Colonial. Since we now have thirty judges including the 2 apprentices, I think that was a great turnout.

I appreciate Bruce Monroe, Dick Hanlon and Diana Fleek for being well informed instructors, along with myself. Those fifteen judges that recertified are now good until the year 2014.

I was glad we had a few minutes at the end of the seminar to discuss some of your concerns and recommendations. I'm not sure if we solved anything, but I do believe things get better when we can talk about them.

I have received from these thirty judges all but four reports for the year 2009 and I want to thank you for getting these back to me so quickly. From the reports I have, the District has judges growing 3700 roses, all judges are judging shows and seventy-three percent exhibited last year. I think you are doing a great job and keep up the good work.

Once again, if you know of anyone in your society that is interested in becoming a judge, please let me know, this will determine if we have a judging school this year or next.

Have a good spring,

... *Donna Smoot*

In Memoriam Frank Benardella January 30, 2010

Frank died peacefully at his home with his family by his side after a short but gallant battle with cancer. He will be sorely missed by all his friends and loved ones.

We want to thank everyone for their cards, e-mails and especially their prayers. He will always be our "ROSE MAN".

His funeral was held February 3 at Higgins Funeral Home, Freehold, NJ 07728

He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer when he was hospitalized with a stroke. It was already stage 4. During the holidays at the Jersey Shore, he seemed perfectly fine, his usual jovial self. The diagnosis was a surprise to him and his family.

[Some of the foregoing information was furnished by Georgie Papale, President of the Pittsburgh Rose Society and Treasurer, Penn-Jersey District.]

THE ROSE PATCH

by Terry Cottrell

Early in February David said that regardless of all the unseasonable weather and abnormal rose activity thereby (which I described last time), we will simply proceed in the garden as usual. We began spring pruning our roses in late February and into March. We followed with cleanup, feeding, topdressing, and spraying. We finished on April Fools' Day.

With some 115 roses (we've cut back the numbers), progress was pretty good. Due to health problems I had then, and David's diminished eyesight, we had a garden helper last season whose cautionary intimidation about roses created hesitant work - better than daring and brash! All the roses faired well with David and helper.

I must share with you that upon my wonderful and capable return to garden work this year, I could only be amused by things like dead canes from last year still standing in the ground, or live upright canes having grown one or more odd 90 degree angles by 'strange' deadheading. All that really matters is that our roses survived last winter, and how happy I am to be working in the garden again!

For many years we fixed our own compost cover for our roses and other raised flower beds; 1/3 each of free sawdust we bagged at a sawmill, shredded piles of clean fall leaves, and commercial double-shredded pine bark mulch. But in recent years, the best of the commercial mulch contains seeds galore which promptly produce great clumps of assorted weeds, vines, poison ivy, etc. It is ongoing extra work for months!

So, this spring we are using Mushroom Compost; once-used soil from growing mushrooms which cannot be reused tho still rich in nutrients. It's like dark humus and dresses beds nicely, plus being a natural organic soil amendment (0.5-0.5-0.2). We bought 100 40 lb. bags at Southern States for all our beds.

In my February article I mentioned Anthony Eglin's new book published in 2009, which I'd review this time. Well, I forgot that with spring garden chores there is little time to read. Also, I had not had time either to peruse the January/February *American Rose* magazine, where page 54 has an article, "Excerpt: *The Trail of the Wild Rose*", by Anthony Eglin. He tells the Prologue, and Chapters One and Two, to whet your interest! I will review this book when I've read it. So far, Eglin has written 4 novels in his *English Garden Mystery Series*, and has been honored with prestigious awards as both a gardener and a writer.

Happy Easter and Springtide to each of you and those you love.

... Terry

In Memoriam Melvin I. Albert

- February 24, 2010

OBITUARY

On Wednesday, February 24, 2010 of Arlington, VA. Beloved husband of 61 years to Marguerite Albert; father of Jennifer Carrano, Jane McGehee, Stephen Albert and Lynn Harrington; grandfather of Stephanie, Patrick, Roland, Andrew, Reece and Natalie. Also survived by many extended family members.

Services will be held at St Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 1830 Kirby Rd., McLean, VA on Tuesday, March 9 at 11 a.m. with interment to follow at Arlington National Cemetery at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his name to the [American Stroke Association](#). Arrangements by Murphy Funeral Home of Arlington.

ROSE BIOGRAPHY

Mel was the Colonial District Director from 1994-1997 and Region 2 Director from 1998-2003. He was a member of the Arlington Rose Foundation and the Potomac Rose Society and was awarded the Potomac Rose Society Gold Medal in 1988.

Mel received the Colonial District Silver Honor Medal in 1985 and the District Outstanding Judge award in 1993. He had been appointed as a Consulting Rosarian in 1974. Mel held emeritus status as both a Horticultural Judge and a Consulting Rosarian at the time of his death.

At the 2003 Fall National meeting in Washington, DC, Mel received a special citation for outstanding service as a Regional Director from ARS President Tommy Cairns.



SAVE THE DATE!

Planet Roses!

2010 ARS SPRING NATIONAL
CONFERENCE AND ROSE SHOW

APRIL 29—MAY 2, 2010
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

DISTRICT DIRECTOR [from page 1]

It was agreed by most everyone in attendance that we should try this again next year and perhaps with a little more time to prepare, we can get more members present. I don't have the final figures, but I believe the District netted over \$500. We did give an ARS membership to two members of two different societies through a random drawing. The individual recipients will be determined by the local societies who won. I believe they were the Potomac and the Richmond societies.

Our District continues to decline as we near 600 members. For the last issue of the Courier, I decided to send out Couriers to all District members who did not have electronic access to the newsletter. This amounted to about 300 newsletters. I plan to do this again this issue, but as I find more members with e-mails, I am lowering the number of copies that have to be mailed. In 2006 we agreed at a business meeting to send free copies only to members of local societies in the District. The Courier is the biggest expense for the District. Since our membership has declined greatly since that time and since more members can receive the Courier electronically, I decided to try to get the newsletter out to more people in the hopes of getting more people to the pre-spring and to try to get more involved in our District. I asked local presidents to send me their membership rosters with e-mail addresses. In this way, we can begin to send out more electronic copies. So far, two societies have responded. We will see how this develops.

Diana and I will be attending the Spring National Rose Show in Shreveport later this month and will be judging in the National Show. It should be a good week and I may have lots of information about the ARS for you in the July issue.

At the District, Charles Shaner and I discussed the new ARS website which was up and running on February 22. I believe it is a great improvement. I was able to find things relatively easily and, although there are still some glitches, with a little input from the members, we will get a first class website soon. I find that ARS responses to e-mails and phone calls are much improved. I also would note that there is a listing of the members of ARS headquarters, their phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and their positions. That should help you locate the right person. Please feel free to contact me or Charles first and perhaps we can take some of the load off the ARS staff. It has been pared radically the past few years.

I would also ask you to look into Good Search on the ARS website. This is a search engine like Google or Yahoo, but by adding it to your web page, you can make any kind of purchase on line (e-bay, amazon, etc.) and ARS receives one percent of the sales price. If you book airfare through Good Search to Shreveport for the spring National, ARS will receive 1% of the cost. I added this to my computer a few weeks ago and it seems to work fine. A box comes up when you look up a site and asks if you want to use it for a discount

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Once again, if you know of anyone in your society that is interested in becoming a judge, please let me know, this will determine if we have a judging school this year or next.

Have a good spring,

... Donna Smoot

or not. Just click the appropriate box and continue with your search. It could be a good way for ARS to earn some additional funds without seeking funding from the membership.

Each of the local societies needs to look into the Trial Membership program that ARS initiated a few years ago. We have published the information on this program in several Couriers, but we still seem to only have a few societies participating. Basically, you can give four-month memberships to non-ARS members in your society for \$5 apiece and when you get new members, you can give them the same four-month membership for free. It's a great way to get people interested in ARS and it helps financially without costing you a lot of money.

On another subject, it looks like there will be an ARS calendar this year. Instead of printing up a certain quantity of calendars and risk not being able to sell them all, this year they will be printed on demand. If 100 calendars are ordered, 100 will be printed. So look for the advertisement in upcoming *American Rose* magazines.

Here's another great attraction for garnering new members. Witherspoon Rose Culture is partnering with the ARS to offer a FREE rose bush to all new members, a \$24.99 value! Every new, full member will receive a coupon to redeem for an *R. K. Witherspoon*, a fabulous hybrid tea sport of *Tiffany*. The new member just pays shipping and handling. This offer does not apply to Trial Memberships.

That's about all I can think of so have a good spring and summer and I hope to see you in the fall. — John



**Join the American Rose Society or renew your membership using this form.
 Print and mail to P O Box 30,000, Shreveport, LA. 71130-0030.
 Fax to 318-938-5405. Call us at 800-637-6534 ext 106 or 108.
 Questions? Email laura@ars-hq.org**

Membership Classifications

One Year

- \$49 Individual
- \$62 Joint *
- \$46 Senior (65+)
- \$59 Senior Joint*
- \$54 Canadian
- \$67 Canadian Joint*
- \$10 Youth
- \$59 International
- \$500 Corporate

Two Year

- \$95 Individual
- \$117 Joint*
- \$89 Senior (65+)
- \$111 Senior Joint*
- \$105 Canadian
- \$127 Can. Joint*
- \$20 Youth
- \$115 International

Three Year

- \$140 Individual
- \$170 Joint*
- \$132 Senior (65+)
- \$162 Senior Joint*
- \$155 Canadian
- \$185 Can. Joint*
- \$30 Youth
- \$170 International

Life

- \$1350 Individual
- \$2700 Joint*
- \$675 Senior (65+)
- \$1350 Senior Joint*
- \$1325 Canadian
- \$2,650 Can. Joint*
- N/A Youth
- \$1340 International

Here are just a few of the benefits of membership:

- Free admission to the American Rose Center, year round and automatic membership in the American Horticultural Society's Reciprocal Garden Admission Program allowing you free/discounted admission to more than 200 select gardens throughout America.
- The bi-monthly, colorful, award-winning *American Rose* magazine with authoritative feature articles by rosarians recognized for their knowledge and success.
- *American Rose Annual* – up-to-date, scientific information on roses and rose culture, plus articles of general interest to rose lovers, published in December.
- ARS Consulting Rosarians – a national network of local rosarians ready and willing to give expert and free advice.
- Nursery Guide – published in January/February, this concise listing of nurseries can help you find everything you need when shopping for roses.
- Garden Guide – published in May/June, this listing of gardens across America will help you plan your summer vacations, along with the ARS travel site, www.ytbtravel.com/arstravel.
- 10% discount on all ARS merchandise and books and special member's only offers too.

Name: _____ Joint Mbr. Name _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Hm Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email address: _____

*Joint members have their own account, and receive all the same benefits as the main ARS member, but do not receive the bi-monthly American Rose magazine.

\$ _____ Total Amount Enclosed Discover Visa Master Card
 Check/Money Order AmEx.

Card# _____ Last 3# on back of card _____ Exp.Date _____

Signature _____ Daytime phone number _____

Thank you for your new membership/renewal. Please allow up to 4 weeks for your new member kit/renewal packet to arrive. If joining or renewing for 2- or 3-years, please allow up to 6 weeks for delivery of the Ortho book.

2010 — PRESIDENTS OF LOCAL ROSE SOCIETIES – 2010

Arlington Rose Foundation
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703-860-0071
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[Editor's Note: E-mail addresses and/or web sites appear following phone numbers, as they are made available. Be sure to include the correct Area Code when address changes are made. ANW]



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NORFOLK, VA.
PERMIT NO. 305